

Rob Williams gets my vote

MY vote for Wycombe Wanderers' player of the year would go to **Rob Williams**. For sheer consistency alone, he stood out head and shoulders above the rest. Although not the most creative of players, Rob always gave 100 per cent and was an inspiration in midfield.

Not far behind was **Larry Pritchard**, one of the most talented amateur footballers in the country. Larry's ability to create something out of nothing, his superb passing and general work rate were the key to Wycombe's success.

Keith Searle started the season with the Blues but then left for Hendon. When he eventually returned to Loakes Park, the difference in the side was marked. Perhaps this was Keith's best ever year, unbeatable in the air, his finishing was often deadly. He soon renewed his partnership with **Tony Horseman**, who it was thought had retired at the start of the season. "Bodger" came back after about six games and although a yard slower this year, his laying off and uncanny understanding with Searle brought many memorable goals.

Ken Swain was an immediate success when he came to Wycombe having been spotted playing for a College side at Loakes Park. Ken dazzled both defences and the Wycombe crowd with some superb footwork. He could well be a key factor in Wycombe's side next season — if the club can hang on to him.

Brian Langfield joined towards the later stages of the season from Maidenhead and had the knack of popping up in the right place to score goals. He couldn't maintain a regular place in the side later in the season, however.

The form of **Mick Holifield** was always unpredictable. Mick started as a forward but later developed into a midfield man. His performances in the last few games were brilliant. Another inconsistent player this term, **Johnny Hutchinson**, also had problems off the field. He left the club for two weeks but later returned and played in the B and B Cup final. On top form John was a match winner.

At the back both goalkeepers were sound. **John Maskell's** handling and general fielding was excellent and he kept his place throughout the term despite **Peter Spittle's** challenge. Peter came from Maidenhead mid-way through the season and when given the chance, turned in some fine performances.

Skipper **John Delaney** was again troubled by injury. With **Dave Bullock** he formed a watertight defence that was both strong in the air and mobile on the floor. John lost some of his flair from set piece situations and was never the threat of the past few seasons but he turned on a brilliant show against Bournemouth and accepted their offer to sign professional.

Many people thought Dave Bullock was unfortunate not to gain a regular place in the early matches and when he did get into the side, he proved them absolutely correct. Dave was the hero in the league game against Walton — a match that was his finest of the year.

Derek Gamblin, one of the most experienced players in the squad, was also one of the most inconsistent. At times his footwork in getting out of difficult situations was brilliant.

Paul Birdseye left for a six weeks stay with Maidenhead half way through the season but returned looking a far better player. Was tried in midfield but later returned to the full back berth. His heading improved with every match while his passing was at times top class.

Alan Gane played several times for Hereford but could not stamp a regular claim for a first team place. A utility player, Alan's best match was the friendly against Chelsea. **Ian Rundle**, iron man of the defence, was as uncompromising as ever and although his distribution was sometimes poor, he made up with his constant effort.

FINAL TABLE

THE late run by Walton and Hersham and Leatherhead pushed Wycombe down to fourth place after they had occupied second position for several weeks. Here's how all the teams finished and also a look back on the previous year's table.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE FINAL TABLE 1972/73

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hendon	42	34	6	2	88	18	74
Wltn & H'shm	42	25	11	6	60	25	61
L'head	42	23	10	9	76	32	56
Wyc. W.	42	25	6	11	66	32	56
Walstv A	42	20	12	10	66	48	52
T & M Utd	42	20	11	11	73	39	51
Sutton Utd	42	21	9	12	69	48	51
Kingston	42	20	10	12	60	49	50
Enfield	42	20	8	14	90	54	48
B Stford	42	18	12	12	58	51	48
Hayes	42	19	8	15	69	42	46
D Hamlet	42	18	9	15	59	52	45
Ilford	42	18	9	15	61	59	46
L'stone	42	17	11	14	55	54	45
Woking	42	18	8	16	61	56	44
Hitchin T	42	15	9	18	52	64	39
Barking	42	8	7	27	45	88	23
S Albans C	42	5	12	25	34	76	22
Oxford C	42	6	7	29	30	101	19
Bromley	42	4	10	28	31	70	18
Clapton	42	3	11	28	31	100	17
C Cas	42	3	8	31	30	106	14

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE 1971-72

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wyc. W.	40	31	3	6	102	20	65
Enfield	40	26	8	6	90	41	60
W & Hrshm	40	24	8	8	69	25	56
Hendon	40	23	10	7	78	35	56
B Storfd	40	24	5	11	61	37	53
Sutton U	40	21	10	9	77	43	52
S Albans C	40	23	4	13	74	47	50
Ilford	40	17	11	12	62	52	45
Barking	40	20	4	16	65	61	44
Hitchin T	40	17	10	13	68	66	44
Bromley	40	16	10	14	67	64	42
Hayes	40	14	12	14	50	48	40
Oxford C	40	13	9	18	67	74	35
Woking	40	11	10	19	52	58	32
Kingston	40	10	12	18	49	59	32
Walstv A	40	12	8	20	58	70	32
L'stone	40	11	8	21	48	68	30
T & M Utd	40	6	9	25	38	93	21
Clapton	40	7	7	26	45	118	21
D Hamlet	40	4	12	24	35	81	20
Cor Cas	40	3	4	33	21	116	10

Keith tops

DESPITE his stay with Hendon midway through the season, Keith Searle still emerged as the top goalscorer with 26 goals last season. Tony Horseman was second with 23. This means that in three seasons these two players alone have scored 217 goals between them.

The goalscorers this season were: Searle (26), Horseman (23), Holifield (17), Pritchard (17), Langfield (14), Delaney (11), Hutchinson (9), Gane (6), Swain (4), Birdseye (3), Williams (3), Bullock (2), Gamblin (1), Rundle (1), Jameson (2).

The top appearances were: Birdseye (50 games, 3 sub.), Bullock (47, 2), Delaney (51, 2), Gamblin (52, 2), Spittle (16, 0), Gane (47, 15), Holifield (47, 7), Langfield (18, 2), Horseman (44, 9), Hutchinson (46, 9), Maskell (42, 2), Swain (11, 1), Pritchard (70, 1), Rundle (48, 7), Searle (46, 1), Williams (59, 2), Amos (41, 8), Davies (10), O'Brien (18, 1), Olson (33, 4), Jameson (15, 0).